

Haslingfield Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the
Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the
Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at
bit.ly/CambsCollection

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in
touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library
where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the
1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2017

1902 07 26

Popular Country Drives. The "Alexandra" and "Coronation" char-a-bancs will leave Cambridge Market Hill on Wednesday for Shelford, Newton and Whittlesford; return fare 1s. Thursday special drive to Royston, Friday Haslingfield and Saturday Earith bridge. Special Sunday drive to Whittlesford Bridge pleasure gardens. H. Buck, jobmaster, Crown Inn, Jesus Lane, Cambridge – advert

1905 09 16

Members of Sturton Street Methodist chapel cycled from Cambridge to Haslingfield to celebrate their harvest thanksgiving. During the service some evilly-disposed person with a table fork or hat-pin punctured the tyres of four ladies' and one gentleman's cycles. Those who suffered in this disgraceful way would be pleased if the police would take the matter in hand so that such scandalous conduct does not reoccur.

1908 10 09

Provision of smallholdings Hauxton, Cottenham, Steeple Morden & Haslingfield – CWN 08 10 09

1908 11 13

For several hours the district between Lord's Bridge and Haslingfield was the scene of warfare which, had it been real, would have strewn the countryside with dead and dying. The C.U. Officers' Training Corps was joined by the Leys, Perse, Cambridge County and other schools as several hundreds of troops, cavalry, infantry and engineers were engaged. The idea was that a hostile army was retiring towards Royston and being harried by the home army. Their retreat was attended with difficulty since all the bridges over the Cam were destroyed and fords existed for mounted troops only. CWN 08 11 13 p5

1908 11 13

Mr & Mrs John Barnard of Green Farm, Haslingfield, celebrated their 'diamond wedding'. Such an occurrence has been known in the village within living memory. Time has dealt kindly with each: he has attained the ripe old age of 84 whilst his wife is 82. Both were born in the village and married in the church in 1848. He rises about 4.30 to attend to the farm and retires about eight at night. He has never smoked and maintains that tobacco shortens one's days. On only one occasion have they travelled any distance when they journeyed by rail to Kent. Neither has ever seen the sea. 08 11 13

1910 02 18

At Haslingfield the conduct of a certain lady had offended the tender susceptibilities of some of the inhabitants and a crowd numbering 200 assembled around eight o'clock. Nearly all had come provided with tin-kettles, tin-pans, penny whistles, mouth organs and other instruments of ear torture. When the band struck up, the kettles were vigorously banged using pieces of wood and iron as drumsticks and the noise became deafening. A number of popular songs with appropriate allusions were also yelled loudly. After two hours the crowd broke up. The procession reformed on the two following evenings. There was no sign from the occupants of the house. 10 02 18c

1910 04 01

Easter 1910 will be long remembered for its delightful holiday weather. The religious services both on Friday and Sunday were remarkably well attended and on Friday evening a large audience attended a performance of the 'Messiah' at the Guildhall. Many Cambridge people went out of town by train. Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Cromer were the most popular watering places, Hunstanton attracting fewer people than usual. There were scores of cyclists and motorists on the roads, all very cheerful in spite of the dust nuisance. The Territorials held a parade for 250 men and the 1st Eastern General Hospital were busy training at Haslingfield. A miniature rifle range was opened at the Working Men's Institute in Fitzroy Street. 10 04 01a

1910 09 23

An application was made for the transfer of the licence of the Quay Green, Swaffham. The outgoing tenant said he worked hard all the week but all the money had to go to the brewers. Police objected to the new applicant who had been landlord of the Waggon and Horses in Haslingfield. Whilst there inhabitants objected to the conduct of a member of his family so strongly that there was a 'tin-kettling' and they did not want a repetition of that kind of thing here. The Star Brewery said they knew nothing of the matter and would find a new applicant. 10 09 23b

1910 10 21

A fire involving the loss of seven stacks occurred at River Farm, Haslingfield which has just been taken over by Messrs Chivers. It was noticed by Mr Hays of Harston who jumped from his trap and tried to tread out the flames before rushing into the village to give the alarm. While some men worked hard to save the stacks, two horse keepers got ten valuable horses from the stables while others removed valuable farm implements. The glow could be seen for many miles round and attracted crowds of people from neighbouring villages. Firemen cycled over from Cambridge and the steamer, which arrived after a fast run, was soon got to work. But for the splendid efforts of the villagers the whole farm would have been destroyed. 10 10 21

1910 11 04

Manor Farm, Haslingfield, is an old family property. As it was convenient for military purposes the house was originally well fortified and a wide full moat still encompasses it on three sides. It was most useful when a stack fire broke out. Huge cloths were flung over the old barn roof and pail after pail emptied over it. The sky was glowing ruddily and hundreds of people were soon on the spot, most of them spectators. But a helpful few assisted to prevent the spread of the flames. It is supposed the stacks were fired intentionally by the same persons responsible for the River Farm fire two weeks ago. 10 11 04g

1910 11 11

A convoy, broken-down and captured by the enemy near Cantelupe Farm Haslingfield formed the objective of some interesting operations by the University Officer Training Corps and a small force of public school boys from the Leys School. The Cambridge garrison were very short of fuses and a convoy of wagons, disguised as manure carts had tried to reach them. But the horses became exhausted and they'd been obliged to halt for the night. The commander sent out column 500 strong to bring them in but encountered the opposing cavalry. The Maxim gun detachment did good service, firing from near the inn at Barton 10 11 11c & d

1911 12 22

During the week 274 persons have been supplied by the Mayor's soup kitchen and 73 gallons of soup, nine lbs of dripping and six stone of bread have been distributed. Meat, bones etc have been received from Mr W. Robinson of Bene't Street and other butchers, while G.H. French of East Road has given pea flour and Mr Wallis of Haslingfield, swedes. The sale of bone has realised one shilling and tenpence. The mayor has promised to distribute oranges today and Mrs Prior, Furniss Lodge, has kindly promised 150 mince pies. 11 12 22a

1913 04 25

A Pembroke undergraduate, the son of the editor of the Daily Mail, was killed in a shocking accident near Harston when his new Bedford car was in collision with a light spring cart. Both vehicles were badly damaged. The pony was forced over the bonnet, one of its hind legs being jammed between the steering column and the side of the car and the shaft of the cart was driven right through the unfortunate motorist's head like a lance. A half-sovereign which was found in his waistcoat pocket was broken in three pieces. The occupants of the cart were returning from Haslingfield with a number of ducklings, some of which were also killed 13 04 25 CIP p8 photo p10

1913 11 28

Haslingfield death M. Mason., Methodist preacher, gave site for chapel in 1867

1914 07 17

Flower shows, Sawston, Coton, Shelford, Haslingfield

1914 10 02

More wounded arrive, including a number of men recently at Cambridge who expressed their delight at returning to the place they were so well treated. Amongst them was the Haslingfield postman who cheerfully called 'I told you I should come back'. At Trinity College bugler Edwin Royston, who was on duty at the gate, suddenly recognised his half-brother, Serg. Hubert Wooten, among the wounded. He did not know he'd gone to the front, much less that he was returned. Both brothers belong to Cambridge, their relatives living in Willow Walk 14 10 02

1914 12 18

Joe Humphries Haslingfield war news

1917 04 18

Haslingfield sale of work – 17 04 18b

1920 02 04

Haslingfield war memorial unveiling

1923 12 19

William Hunt told the court he had a milkround and a general stores at Haslingfield. In September he was hard pressed for a pony and paid £10 to have one on trial and then pay so much a month. On the way to Cambridge he, his wife and children were nearly thrown out on two or three occasions on account of the pony stumbling. He concluded the pony was not fit. A vet said the horse had several old scars and he would describe it as broken-kneed. It was not well nourished and was liable to go down at any moment.

1929 02 01

An aged Haslingfield woman who had lived for 17 years on parish relief in a state of semi-starvation was found dead in her cottage. After the funeral police searched the house and in all sorts of nooks and crannies found gold, silver and notes. But on several occasions the Relieving Office had found her eating a meal of toast, margarine and tea, and had actually sent out for bacon for her. Her family had no idea she was in receipt of relief and regarded her as a person of independent means.

1931 06 05

The opening meet of the Eastern Counties Otter Hounds took place at Hauxton Mill where a good dog otter was put down at Lutton Osiers. After hunting him up and down streams as far as Haslingfield for three hours he had to be given up, bad scent and too much water making hunting most difficult, and everyone was soaked to the skin by the downpour. While the miller's wife was admiring the hounds from her front door, some of them walked into her dining room and mopped up a nice leg of mutton. 31 06 05 & a

1929 07 15

An outbreak of fire that occurred at Haslingfield when a considerable amount of damage was caused. The fire centred on a clunch-built furniture store with a wooden loft at the back of the premises of Mr Hunt, milkman and general dealer. It appeared to have originated in a neighbouring pig sty and spread to the outhouse which was full of furniture, a corn barn, and coal store, completely gutting them. Mrs Hunt send her maid to the Post Office to phone for the fire brigade but when she got there she was told by the postmistress she could not, and was too excited to ask the reason. Consequently she had to sent to Mr Burrell, the butcher, at the other end of the village, which meant a delay of several minutes. A number of Boy Scouts under the Dean of Queens' rendered considerable assistance in removing

furniture. It was a scandal there was no public telephone in the village when the nearest doctor was over two miles away. The mother of the postmistress explained that her daughter was out when the maid called and she herself had never used the telephone and asked the maid if she knew how to use it. The maid did not and so they sent for Mr Hunt, who did not come. It was wrong to say they had refused anyone the use of the phone

1934 03 12

A Haslingfield man and his wife had a narrow escape when a ball of fire struck their cottage in School Lane. Percy Morris was sitting by the fire in the kitchen when lightning demolished a chimney pot, flinging the debris several feet into the garden. "The noise was like that made by a whiz-bang during the war. I could not see for soot and had to open the window to let the smoke out", he said. His wife was talking to a neighbour when what looked like a ball of fire rushed past in front of her. This is the third occasion in recent years that lightning has done damage in the village. 34 03 12

1934 09 17

Consternation reigned when lightning struck two houses in Stretton Avenue, dislodging part of the chimney stack which damaged the roof. Soot was shot all over the place and there was a smell of gas. During the storm large hailstones fell in Grantchester while at Haslingfield Mr Norman Thompson's bus with a load of passengers was forced to stop when the hail beat a fusillade on the roof. 34 09 17

1935 08 27

An 84-year-old Haslingfield man was summoned for assault. He had gone to the pump with his pail and told a group of youths that they had no business loitering there on a Sunday evening. Having filled his pail he deliberately poured some of the water down the back of one lad's legs, then shot the rest of the contents of the pail over him and started swinging it round saying "I will cut your b--- head off". The old man said there'd been friction with members of the village Cricket Club who left their bicycles against his house. The lads had pulled his fence down as fast as he'd put it up but he'd driven them away with a coal hammer. The case was dismissed 35 08 27b

1936 12 03

Clara Harris, the grand old lady of showland, celebrated her 100th birthday in her caravan at Haslingfield. She was the daughter of a showman, Larry Shaw, who was the first steam roundabout proprietor. In 1869 she married Moe Harris of Gamlingay and assisted him at fairgrounds around England. Clara worked until she was 93; the last fair was at Royston where she sat behind her stall selling sweets she'd made herself. Two of her five daughters carry on the tradition. 36 12 03b

1941 03 21

Shelling out with a vengeance. From Mrs. Joshua Barnard, of Barton Road, Haslingfield (writes Watchman) I have had this interesting letter—Dear Watchman, I've a hen that has laid three large eggs, one every third day. The measurements are 9½ inches round lengthwise, 7 inches round the centre; they weigh 6 ounces each. Is this a record? I wonder if any one of my readers can equal or surpass this.

1943 02 05

Prisoner of War. News has at last been received of another Cambs. man of whom nothing had been heard for some time. Mrs. J. Goodrick, 2, High Street. Haslingfield, has been notified by the War Office, under the date January 29, that her son, Pte. Henry Victor Rutterford, No. 5933505, 2nd. Cambs. Regt., is a prisoner of war in Japanese hands, and is interned in a Malayan camp.

1944 01 14

Village names, — It is well known (writes Watchman) that many villages in Cambridgeshire have down through the years, been spelt in various ways, but Haslingfield seems to hold the record locally. At the January meeting of the Women's Institute the Vicar gave a talk on the history of the village, and it was revealed that in old deeds & records the name 'Haslingfield' has been spelt in 101 different ways. Can any other Cambridgeshire village approach this remarkable figure?

1944 11 10

21st Birthday party. The Haslingfield Women's Institute celebrated its 21st anniversary with a birthday party on November 7. Each member was invited to bring along a friend, and the President welcomed ten members of Comberton W.I. A card of greeting and congratulations was received from Lady Denman. A varied programme of games, competitions and sketches was arranged by the entertainments committee.

1947 07 31

At the meeting of the Chesterton Rural District Council it was reported that a further three parishes (Coton, Fen Drayton and Lolworth) had been supplied with water mains. It was anticipated that the work involving the supply to Barton, Comberton, Toft, Haslingfield and Harlton would be put in hand during the coming year. Several parishes, notably Croxton, Eltisley, Graveley, Hardwick and Dry Drayton were extremely short of water for domestic and stock purposes and trouble was anticipated in the summer months. The position could not be improved until a new high level water tower was erected thereby affording sufficient pressure to enable a mains supply to be taken to these villages.

1955 09 15

Chivers have installed one of the most modern milking machines at their farm at Haslingfield. It was built to their specifications by Simplex Dairy Equipment of Cambridge. Now two men can deal with up to 80 cows in ninety minutes in a building near the pasture with the milk being transferred direct to the dairy by a pipeline arriving completely untouched by hand

1955 12 14

The petrol station of today fills the place held by the blacksmith 50 years ago argued the company appealed to put up a petrol service station opposite the White Hart public house, Cambridge Road, Barton. It was of the utmost importance but small villages could not always afford to have one of their own. But the parish council objected and the County said it was the wrong place; Haslingfield or Comberton would be better sites

1959 06 03

Winton-Smith, the Cambridge butchers, have been looking for a site for a new, modernised slaughterhouse to replace the one they own in East Road. They have chosen a site in Haslingfield but there are objections from residents and so a public inquiry was held. 59 06 03

1959 10 13

The University's Mullard Radio Astronomy Laboratory employed a helicopter to transport one of their big parabolic aerials from a site in Grange Road to Offal End, near Haslingfield. An airlift was the only practical way of moving such an unwieldy load, 27 feet in diameter and so intricately built that it would have been difficult to dismantle it. Cambridge engineer, Mr Donald MacKay was responsible for preparing the complicated piece of freight for its journey. 59 10 13

1960 06 24

A meat wholesaling firm applied for permission to build a new slaughterhouse at Cherry Hinton. They had wanted to put it at Haslingfield but were told that certain electrical apparatus they intended to use might interfere with the work of the Radio Astronomy Laboratories. Residents are appalled that children might be able to see pieces of dead animals lying about. But there was already one slaughter house in Cherry Hinton and it would be good for people to see what happened inside one. 60 06 24d

1960 11 02

Many roads were flooded following a torrential downpour. Policemen with red warning lights patrolled parts of Queen's Road which was covered to a depth of 18-inches in parts and the roadway at Chesterton Hall Crescent was also under water. Wilberforce Road was the most seriously affected where water poured off a nearby playing field and fences were pulled up to divert the flow away from

houses. The Wheatsheaf Inn at Harlton and a cottage at Barton Road Haslingfield were also inundated. This has been one of the wettest years recorded in Cambridge. 60 11 02b

1961 01 13

Haslingfield church clock renovated – 61 01 13b

1963 04 09

Haslingfield is in danger of losing its village hall and recreation ground if financial support is not found soon. They were left in trust 38 years ago by a Mr Badcock who willed that the amenities should last forever. But the money in the will ran out several years ago and now support for the Trust Committee has dwindled. It costs £150 a year to maintain and is used for dances, the Over-60's club and as changing rooms. The children's playground would also suffer. 63 04 09

1964 02 12

Haslingfield rubbish tip causes annoyance – 64 02 12

1964 04 03

Haslingfield village hall has few users – 64 04 03a

1964 08 14

Fire gutted a house at Harston Hill, destroying antique furniture stored in one of the rooms. It had been bought, together with the mill, by a Haslingfield builder who was restoring it. Flames reached 20 ft above the blazing house before its timbers collapsed. Firemen pulled down the walls of the upper floors and they were too dangerous to leave. But they successfully saved the mill itself. 64 08 14a

1964 11 23

Haslingfield says rubbish tip is nuisance – 64 11 23

1965 01 15

Edarn builders of Haslingfield built first house at Abington in 1960 – history – 65 01 15b

1965 10 12

Haslingfield & Harlton vicar's wife returns from USA – comments on difference – 65 10 12c

1977 04 04

Haslingfield's new Methodist church was officially unlocked by the oldest member of the congregation, Miss Grace Huddleston, for many years organist at the old chapel. It will have as its minister the Rev Denzil Sutcliffe of Royston. Standing in part of what was once the Manor House garden, the new church replaces a century-old building which is being retained for use as a creche.

1978 05 02

Nearly 400 Protestants and Roman Catholics joined together at Haslingfield to revive a pilgrimage thought to be more than 500 years old. Led by the vicar and the Sawston Roman Catholic priest the pilgrimage wound their way up Chapel Hill to the site of a medieval shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Whitehill. In the Middle Ages it was used by pilgrims en route to Walsingham and brought much trade to the village, "enriching the priest and benefiting the inhabitants". It disappeared without trace about 1541. The modern pilgrims continued to Harlton parish church, pausing at intervals for hymn singing and Bible readings.

1979 04 23

A new row has divided the villagers of Haslingfield. After the path that went nowhere, the pavilion which 'cost too much' and the rifle range which half the village didn't want, there's now the muddy meadow controversy. The Parish Council bought Well House Meadow in the centre of the village for £6,000 in 1976. The land, which contains a recently –renovated 17th-century well house, was intended as an additional play area but a large part has been fenced off and let as grazing land. Villagers claim the ground has been churned up and is useless as a play area. Now someone has

erected barbed wire over the public entrance and the row has assumed the proportions of village guerrilla warfare

1980 05 27

Time has been called on Jack and Ivy Wallwork who are retiring after 29 years at the Jolly Brewers pub in Haslingfield. The pub was dead when they first arrived and only took £15 in the first week. But over the years they have given it a welcoming homely appearance which has proved popular with customers. Jack hopes to continue providing the pubs shellfish speciality and Ivy will continue her darts – she plays in the ladies team and captains the men's

1981 04 16

Haslingfield general stores stocks a bit of everything from fresh meat to greengrocery and hand-made chocolates to a selection of cheeses. A number of jars behind the counter contain herbs and spices sold loose and they also have cumin seeds and tinned lychees. Cardboard boxes hold everything from upholstery nails and cistern washers to hinges and screws. Dudley Harris, the shopkeeper, believes customers come in to be cheered up and he enjoys having a laugh with them. 81 04 16

1982 05 25

Many villages have old houses which are little more than unsightly ruins because owners are unwilling to carry out vital repairs. Now South Cambridgeshire District Council has set up a fund to enable it to compulsorily buy buildings which might otherwise be destroyed. About 50 properties, including barns and dovecotes have been identified with a row of five cottages at Pampisford, a derelict farmhouse at Haslingfield and a school house at West Wrating being top priorities. 82 05 25b & c & d

1984 03 20

Elderly people need extra care and reassurance as they get older. Often this is provided by families but in Haslingfield parish councillors have started a warden scheme paid for out of the parish rates. The warden talks to chats to residents in their own homes, sews on buttons, brings in the coal or collects their prescriptions. There is even a team of volunteers who help out when she is unwell. It means people can stay independent longer. 84 03 20 p10

1986 05 09

Brinkley post office has been voted the Best Village Shop of the Year in Cambridgeshire. Almost every inch of Jackie Fane's counter, shelf and wall space is taken up with produce ranging from crab thermiodore and trout to seeds, sunglasses and scissors. The Community Council has also judged Les and Janet Reinemann of Haslingfield as Best Village Shopkeepers with Mr B. Patel of the Mace Stores Bassingbourn and Mr A. Garner of The Stores, Great Gidding, close behind. 86 05 09a

1986 11 12

Armed robbers brandishing a sawn-off shotgun burst into Fen Ditton post office just before closing time and terrified the postmaster into handing over £2,000 in cash. They fled in a white Ford Cortina they'd stolen hours earlier. The car was found abandoned down a farm track at Horningsea and the men are thought to have crossed Baitsbite Lock into Fen Road, Milton, where they had a getaway car waiting. Detectives say the raid is identical to one at Haslingfield in February. The Post Office has designated Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire as a 'high-risk' area because of the huge number of robberies 86 11 12

1986 11 22

Two masked robbers burst into Ellington post office and stole £1,300 in cash after threatening the sub-postmistress with a shotgun. The thieves, one of whom wore a stocking over his head, fled in a bronze-coloured Ford Cortina that had been stolen from St Ives and was later abandoned at Grafham Water. Police say it is a copy of other recent robberies at Fen Ditton and Haslingfield 86 11 22

1988 03 18

The cock-eyed cockerel on top of Haslingfield church has become a symbol of eccentric dottiness and an endearing landmark, says its vicar. It has been wobbling precariously for more than 20 years but they cannot afford to put it right. The church was built in the middle of the 14th century and the weather cock has rusted in its support. Now an architect's report will reveal whether it has become a priority 88 03 18